EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) has the primary federal responsibility for ensuring the availability of efficient waterborne transportation services and support to American shippers and consumers and maintains the nation's reserve shipping capacity for use in time of national emergency. MARAD information technology initiatives are directed towards meeting the goals outlined in the MARAD and DOT Strategic Plans. Those initiatives support the agency's core business functions and five major program areas: the national security program for maintaining the nation's reserve shipping capacity; the manpower program for developing and supporting U.S. fleet labor resources; the financial assistance programs that provide low cost capital and subsidies to support new ship construction and existing fleet operations; the domestic shipping programs that support development of port and intermodal capabilities and the protection of the domestic water way environment; and the ship construction support programs to support the nation's shipbuilding capability.

Accomplishments in FY 2000

Standardized IT Architecture

MARAD standardized its switching, routing and hub equipment using Cisco as the standard architecture in FY2000.

MARAD initiated its migration from cc:Mail to MS Outlook and Exchange in FY2000 as part of its effort to conform to One DOT standards. That migration is scheduled for completion by the end of FY2000.

Year 2000 Renovation

MARAD successfully completed its Y2K migration in FY2000.

Network Upgrades

MARAD standardized its network architecture around Cisco switches, routers and hubs as part of its effort to conform to the One DOT initiative. All other switch, router and hub equipment was grandfathered out in FY2000.

MARAD successfully integrated its field offices into its Wide Area Network (WAN) in FY2000 using MCI's Virtual Private Network (VPN) as part of its transition from FTS2000 to FTS2001..

MARAD purchased intrusion detection equipment to upgrade its network security management capability.

Web Site Enhancements

MARAD implemented its first e-commerce web pages in FY 2000. MARAD implemented a customer feedback web site for our user community.

Desktop internet access was provided to 100% of MARAD employees in FY2000.

Virtually all IT applications developed in FY2000 were web-enabled.

MARAD eliminated the use of "cookies" on its web page, and is reviewing the applicability of Section 508 on its web pages and IT systems to ensure access for individuals with disabilities.

MARAD's internet and intranet web pages were redesigned and restructured for ease of understanding and use.

Key IT Goals

During FY2001 MARAD will continue to implement its technology refreshment program by systematically replacing one-third of its IT infrastructure with new equipment.

During FY2001 MARAD will enhance its network management capabilities by installing and implementing network performance monitoring and management software.

MARAD will solicit and award a contract for comprehensive IT support services to replace its existing contract in FY2000. The solicitation will be a competitive 8-(a) set aside competition.

Critical IT Investments

Critical IT investments for FY 2001 and beyond include:

Development of computer based training (CBT) capability for IT staff to enhance core competencies and offer appropriate training courses to establish or improve employee IT literacy.

Develop a new contingency and disaster recovery plan for DIRM and test its disaster recovery capability for critical systems.

MCI's Remote LAN Dial (RLD) VPN access will replace AT&T's OASIS for MARAD remote users in FY2001 as part of MARAD's transition from FTS2000 to FTS2001.

MARAD is reviewing the use of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) for encryption and transaction security.

MARAD will continue to support and contribute to the Department's efforts to ensure the protection and security of DOT owned and operated IT systems, and to bring the agency in compliance with Presidential Decision Directive 63 (PDD-63) and OMB Circular A-130.